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VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 3

APRIL 2008

SISTER CITIES UNITING TO BENEFIT

PDN
PENNNSYLVANIA
DIVERSITY
NETWORK

pride
of the Greater Lehigh Valley

SISTERHOOD
SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2008
DIAMONZ
BETHLEHEM, PA

Poster made possible by:
The
campground

DOORS OPEN: 5pm SHOWTIME: 7pm
FREE HIV TESTING FROM 5-7pm

\$5.00 Admission
Donation

goes
overboard

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THE RAVEN RAINBOW MTN

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Starring your Hosts for the Evening...
25\$ per TABLE V.W.
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DON'T MISS
SISTERHOOD
SUNDAY - APRIL 6
AT DIAMONZ
1913 W. BROAD ST.
BETHLEHEM
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM.
SHOWTIME AT 7PM
\$5
ADMISSION-DONATION
THIS EXCITING
FABULOUS EVENT IS A
FUNDRAISER FOR
PA DIVERSITY
NETWORK,
GREATER LEHIGH
VALLEY PRIDE, &
FACT (FIGHTING AIDS
CONTINUOUSLY
TOGETHER).

**NOT SURE WHO
TO VOTE FOR IN THE
APRIL 22 PRIMARY?
SEE POSITIONS
ON GLBT RIGHTS
FROM EACH
OF THE CAMPAIGNS &
READ TRISH'S COLUMN
ON PAGES 2-11.**

DANGEROUS STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT MOVES AHEAD - READ WHAT YOU CAN DO

Voting to move the bill ahead (bad): Greenleaf, Scarnati, Gorndner, Orie, Piccola, Rafferty, Boscola, Stack, Stout, White.

Voting against moving the bill out of committee (good): Browne, Costa, Earll, Fontana.

SB 1250, the so called "Marriage Protection Amendment" to the Pennsylvania State Constitution - that would disallow any legal recognition of a relationship that is substantially similar to marriage, unless it was one man legally married to one woman, has moved ahead out of the Judiciary Committee toward a vote in the full State Senate. Two of the State Senators on the Judiciary Committee represent the Lehigh Valley, one did the right things, one did the very wrong things. Read about it in What's That About on page 2.

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL WITH A MEMBERSHIP CARD IN IT,
IT MEANS IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR PA DIVERSITY NETWORK DUES.
YOU CAN PAY BY MAIL OR SECURELY ON-LINE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

*****PDN/VGP AWARDS CELEBRATION NIGHT***** JUNE 17, 2008 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR



PDN/VGP announces the first annual GLBT Community Awards Celebration honoring individuals and organizations that have served the GLBT community. All paid PA Diversity Network members are eligible to nominate individuals and organizations in both the greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County, in a variety of categories for awards. Nomination e-forms and info at www.padiversity.org - see the link on the home page. The awards & recognitions will be presented Tuesday evening, June 17th, at the Allentown Brew Works during a special evening party. Tickets are \$20 person and include fabulous food, beverages and a cash bar. There will be a silent auction, raffle, prizes and other features.

ACCESS A NOMINATION FORM AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.



What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradley with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear What's That About, I read something about a new anti-gay PA Constitutional Amendment passing out of committee and going to the State Senate for a vote and that Lehigh Valley State Senators were particularly involved. Is this true and what should we do about it? Signed, Ready To Work For Equality

Dear RTWFE, Yes, those far right Republicans, desperate to get conservatives out to vote in upcoming elections, have introduced another so called "Marriage Protection" Constitutional Amendment which would enshrine in the PA Constitution discrimination against the gay community by saying that anything that might be substantially similar to marriage would be restricted to one man and one woman.

Just recently, the Amendment went to the State Senate Judiciary Committee to be reviewed and considered. The 14 committee members happened to include both Lehigh Valley State Senators; Pat Browne (R-Lehigh County) and Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton County). It ultimately passed out of the committee by a vote of 10 to 4 - which was bad.

Reports from activists on our side about the committee vote state that **Pat Browne did all the right things**. He asked strong questions about the content and the ramifications, he spoke for and voted for further hearings and he ultimately voted to not allow the the Amendment to advance out of committee.

On the other hand, **State Senator Lisa Boscola did all the wrong things**. She voted against hearings on the language of the Amendment, even though she had not even read a word about the Amendment. She asked no good questions, and ultimately she voted for the Amendment to advance out of committee. The reasons she gave for doing all these things were weak and ill considered. And last year, she was the only Democrat Senator who supported this negative, unfair, bigoted legislation.

Earlier today, I saw a TV Public Service Announcement about consumer rights which featured Lisa Boscola herself saying: If you have a consumer issue, or if you have been treated unfairly in any way, contact my office.

So contact Lisa Boscola: 610-868-8667, boscola@pasenate.com. Tell her you've been treated unfairly...**by her**. Ask her to vote against the Constitutional Amendment when it comes up for a full Senate vote.

Also, please contact Pat Browne's office and thank him for doing the work and voting the way he did. Please tell him you understand that it's hard to take this kind of stand in an election year, and that you are very grateful he did. Pat Browne: 610-821-8468 pbowrone@pasen.gov

If you live in Berk's County, please contact State Representative Tom Caltagirone, head of the House Judiciary Committee, in case this Amendment goes to the House (which it probably will). 610-376-1529, tcaltagi@pahouse.net. Please tell him to keep this Amendment from going any further because it's wrong and bad for the State.

If you are part of the PDN Photo Project and you live or work in Northampton County, I'd like to send your Photo Project picture to Boscola. If it's OK with you for me to send it, contact me. (610-432-5449) lbradbury@padiversity.org

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WHERE'S SCOTTY?

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner



Scott was too busy this month contemplating the up coming NY Pride Festivities in June and studying for Trivia tournaments with the team he's playing (and winning) on, to do his column...butno fear, he'll be back next month.

APRIL 22 PRIMARY GLBT VOTER CHOICES

Both the Clinton and Obama campaigns provided VGP with information written by local GLBT community members on their candidates (VGP allowed 200 words max and restricted the response to GLBT issues only). The McCain campaign chose not to respond.

OBAMA - BY J.C. LEE

There is little difference between Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on the issues. For the GLBTQ Community, an important distinction is Obama's early and full rejection of the abominable Defense of Marriage Act, passed by the Clinton Administration and only partially rejected by Clinton. On paper, these are typical Democratic Party candidates; however in principle and practice, we see a glaring distinction.

In January, Obama used Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to deliver a speech at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He bravely chastised the black community's rejection of gays and lesbians. In Texas, he was the only candidate to advertise to the GLBTQ community and went so far as to write an open letter to the gay community voicing his support. This is important, because it charts a dramatically different course than his rival. Throughout this campaign, unprompted and in places unpopular, Barack Obama has confronted audiences with our community's issues. Unlike the tepid response to the gay marriage fiasco of the 2004 election, Obama continually and actively brings gay & lesbian people into the diverse coalition he's building for America, and unlike that election, this year I feel I'm finally voting for something rather than against it.

-----J.C. Lee is a playwright and director. He is the Artistic Director of the Omicron Theatre Project and a member of the Theatre Faculty at the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts in Bethlehem, PA. Currently, he works with the leadership team in the Lehigh Valley to help elect Barack Obama.

CLINTON BY ROB HOPKINS

Hillary Clinton has been a longtime friend of the LGBT community. As Senator she has fought against the Federal Marriage Amendment, and feels discrimination has no place in the Constitution. She supported the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would finally end workplace discrimination of LGBT individuals. She has consistently co-sponsored anti-hate crimes legislation, which would protect LGBT individuals from crimes motivated by hatred for our community. Additionally, she has fought for additional AIDS funding and expanded access to services. Hillary Clinton has developed legislation that would create equal benefits for all federal employees and their same-sex partners. As First Lady and Senator she has participated in numerous LGBT events.

As President, Hillary Clinton will improve the lives of LGBT individuals. Her detailed plan includes support for civil unions, to ensure that all Americans have equal benefits. She will continue the fight to pass ENDA, because it's inconceivable that people can still be fired because of who they are or who they love. She will demand that congress pass federal hate crimes legislation and will continue the fight to end Don't Ask Don't Tell, so that LGBT members of the military can serve with courage, honor, patriotism AND PRIDE. VOTE HILLARY!

-----Rob Hopkins is an openly-gay Lehigh Valley native, volunteering his time in support of Hillary Clinton. He serves as Vice Chair of the PA Democratic Party LGBT Caucus, Vice President of Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley and has served various LGBT political organizations. He can be reached at 610-739-2461 or Rob@LVforClinton.com

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenuyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page at www.uuclvp.org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The winter schedule is now in effect.

Game Night: the 4th Monday of the month, at 6:30pm at Conway's BBQ Restaurant in Kuhnsville. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Pinochle:** the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown. **GLOSS has an email newsletter** that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website. GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month in the winter. If enough interest exists, GLOSS will also meet to bowl during the summer months. Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: iramfine@aol.com, home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

GLOSS GAME NIGHT AT LEE GRIBBEN'S

GLOSS will hold a Game Night on Saturday, April 12 at Lee Gribben's, located at 198 Main Street, Emmaus, PA from 6:00 - 10:00PM. Lee Gribben's is a gay owned restaurant which is very supportive of the Lehigh Valley GLBT community, so GLOSS invites you to dine with them, even if you do not play games, and provide your support in return. Please plan to attend and make this a successful event. For those of you who are not familiar with GLOSS game night, people get together and play different board & card games. Bring your favorite game. Bring friends.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moose head. This is a social group. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a definition of BEARS at the PA Diversity Network web site.

SPEAKER AT MUHLENBERG

Prof. Naomi Seidman will be giving a talk entitled "The Sexual Politics of the Hebrew Revival" at 8pm on Tuesday April 15th at Muhlenberg College in Miller Forum, Moyer Hall, and is sponsored by the Posen Foundation's Center for Secular Jewish Culture as part of a grant to the Jewish Studies Program of Muhlenberg College. Prof. Seidman is Koret Professor of Jewish Culture and Director of the Richard S. Dinner Center for Jewish Studies in Berkeley. Her first book, "A Marriage Made in Heaven: The Sexual Politics of Hebrew and Yiddish," appeared in 1997. A second book, "Faithful Renderings: Jewish-Christian Difference and the Politics of Translation," came out last year.

NEW GLBT EPISCOPAL GROUP BEGINS IN BERKS

GLEF, a new organization for the gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgendered community in the Berks area. GLEF is the organization for Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians and Friends. Everyone is invited to join the monthly meetings for fun, food, activities, education and worship. A website that lists upcoming meetings and activities will soon be online. To be added to GLEF's communications list, please contact D. Messenger at info@berksglef.org. The leaders of Berks GLEF have moved to sign on to the PDN/VGP Statement of Non-Discrimination on the back of the Valley Gay Press. GLEF meets regularly at Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading. For information: 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org.

HAVEN PROM

2008 PRIZM PROM
MAY 3, 7-11 PM. UUCLV
CHURCH, 424 CENTER
ST. BETHLEHEM. FOR
GLBTQ YOUTH AND
FRIENDS. \$10 AT THE
DOOR.

GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 FROM 12-6PM AT CEDAR BEACH PARK.

The planning meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 8pm. Anyone interested in assisting with the planning process, please contact Shawn Bausher at sbausher@prideglv.org.

ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS MARTINI CLUB BENEFITS PRIDE & FACT

The Allentown Brew Works Martini Club has pledged \$1500 to Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley and FACT. The \$50 club membership brings a \$2 martini discount every Tues., Thurs., and Saturday with special event nights for the GLBT Community. The Brew Works is at 814 W. Hamilton St., Allentown.

MCCLV LEARNS ABOUT GREEN LIVING

April 19, 11 AM, MCCLV member Jessica Mitchell will give a presentation on green living sponsored by MCCLV's Fellowship Ministry: fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, please e-mail GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. New people are always welcome!

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

READING PRIDE DANCE

"Suds on Sunday Dance Party" - Featuring music by DJ Evelyn, SUNDAY APRIL 6TH, 1PM - 5PM at the SUBURBAN TAVERN (Perkiomen Avenue and 22nd Street) TICKETS \$25.00. Price Includes: Complimentary Party Keg of Miller Lite, Food, Door Prizes, Cash Bar. Tickets Available at the Red Star or call 484-955-2948. Proceeds Benefit Reading Pride Celebration.

BERKS GAY MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

Come out and meet guys of all ages and have fun doing different events. Located in Berks County but guys from all surrounding counties are welcome all the time. For info: berksgmsg@aol.com

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

the woman who is easily angered points out an inconsistency.

those companies with the highest numbers of female corporate officers had, on average, a 34% higher return to shareholders than those with the lowest percentage.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call the Help Lines: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

PSU BERKS PLAY

"The Unlikely Martyrs" is an original play written by Penn State Berks student Savannah Ganster. Performance Dates: April 21-26 at 8:00 p.m. at Penn State Berks Campus. Performances from 21 to 24 will be in the Multi Purpose Room, Perkins Student Center and Performances on 25 & 26 in Luerssen Room 5. Free to PSU students; Faculty and Staff \$5 with an ID; General Public \$7. For information: Radhica Ganapathy, Theatre Faculty, 610-396-6432, rzg3@psu.edu

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: April 1, May 6, Picnic-June 22, July 1, Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4 Monroe: April 4, June 6, Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 Reading: April 15, May 20, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group has formed at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com VGP Drop-Off spot.

WILDE - HARING PLAY AT KUTZTOWN U.

What would happen if two of the most important figures in gay history and art were to inhabit the same space? Kutztown University hosts the premier of a new play by Deryl Johnson featuring the legendary infamous artist - Oscar Wilde and Kutztown's own Pop Artist - Keith Haring. View this lively performance when two of the most important figures in gay history come together for a night of reflection and conversation as they explore art and life. Sponsored by PERFORUM (Kutztown University's Readers Theatre) and the Kutztown University GLBTQ Resource Center. Performances are MAY 1, 2, 3, at 7:30 PM in Rickenbach Theatre (Kutztown University campus). Admission is free and open to the public, however, reservations are strongly suggested. Reserve tickets by calling (484)646-4111.

READING PRIDE FUNDRAISER AT THE STIRLING MANSION

SEE PAGE 9

CALL ME
CRAZY, BUT
DOESN'T
IT SEEM
THAT COM-
PANIES WITH
WOMEN
EXECUTIVES
MAKE MORE
MONEY?



WOULDN'T IT BE
RATIONAL TO
CONSIDER THIS
FACTOR WHEN
MAKING EMPLOY-
MENT DECISIONS?

www.nicolehollander.com
HONEY, SOME
HABITS ARE
HARD TO BREAK.
HAVE I TOLD
YOU HOW I
LOVE THE WAY
YOU LOOK WHEN
RIGHTEOUS, I'RE
MAKES YOUR HAIR CURL?

SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

POLITICAL FILMS

CITIZEN KANE, DR. STRANGELOVE, THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, THE BEST MAN, THE CANDIDATE, WAG THE DOG, SICKO, BOB ROBERTS, MALCOLM X, ELECTION...these are few of the titles that repeatedly surface when you Google "political films." I think all these titles are great but I have my own favorites (you knew I did).

My top ten: (as of today and in no particular order), AMERICAN PRESIDENT, DAVE, MISSING, SEVEN DAYS IN MAY, PATH TO WAR (HBO), SPARTACUS, REDS, BULWORTH, THE OFFICIAL STORY and BORN YESTERDAY. BORN YESTERDAY, a political film, you say? Why, yes. It is. When Paul Verrell (the never more handsome William Holden) is hired to smarten up Billie Dawn (the fabulous Judy Holliday) so she won't sabotage boyfriend Harry's political deals, the film becomes a crash course in good citizenship. Comedy has always helped the political medicine go down. Think Charlie Chaplin films, THE GREAT DICTATOR, in particular, which dared satirize Hitler well before we entered WWII. Think NINE TO FIVE.

Can my generation imagine its American experience without MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON? TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD, THE DEFIANT ONES, GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER, THE DEERHUNTER? Would we have felt the true horror of Pol Pot's regime in Cambodia without THE KILLING FIELDS? I'd watch NIXON again if only for the extraordinary Joan Allen, also front and center in THE CONTENDER. I was a factory worker myself when NORMA RAE premiered. That was one job where I DID stand on the picket line. And I always felt that THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY, SALVADOR and UNDER FIRE formed a perfect trilogy of the third world side of Cold War politics.

I was still weighing my vote in the primary when I watched PRIMARY COLORS again a few days ago. The raw ambition of the Clinton surrogates in the film is disturbing, to say the least. But is Susan Stanton really Hillary or just someone's idea of her? Does the film mean to indict just them or the political process as a whole? There is no movie precedent that comes to my mind for Barack Obama's candidacy but perhaps it's a topic films will finally address now that it's part of us. In the end, I would no more allow a movie to effect how I vote than I would the talking heads of cable (although I still listen pretty closely when it's Jon Stewart or Rachel Maddow doing the talking!) but films can illuminate the impact of politics on our lives in a way few other mediums can. And I haven't even touched on what documentaries have added to our collective socio-political consciousness!

Whatever you do in April, don't forget to vote. And maybe drop by a Blockbuster or Hollywood Video on the way home?

MUHLENBERG PRESENTS WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S LOVE'S LABOR'S LOST

April 24 - 27 in the Baker Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance, Muhlenberg College Tickets www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484.664.3333 Groups: email boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

Engage in a battle of the sexes writ with elegance, edge and wit in one of Shakespeare's most dazzling poetic comedies. Reset in the contemporary world of a luxury sea-side resort, powerful men who have foreseen the world's fortunes to devote themselves to the life of the mind are immediately tempted by unexpected visitors - several beautiful and saavy ladies. Amid misdirected letters and mistaken identities, surprise encounters and brilliant conversations - this is a tale of desire, foolishness, and love.

ZANNA DON'T! AT MUHLENBERG

Sweetness, Magic and Light in Zanna, Don't! April 2-6 in the Studio Theatre, Trexler Pavilion for Theatre & Dance, Muhlenberg College Tickets www.muhlenberg.edu/tickets or 484.664.3333 Groups: email boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu

Finding the perfect match isn't easy in this campy musical comedy eight high school students tossed between love and acceptance. The musical fairy tale imagines an alternate world where homosexuality is the norm and straight people are considered deviant. The plot focuses on two high school couples: Mike, a chess champ, hooks up with Steve, a football star, even as waitress Roberta connects with mechanical bull rider Kate. Trouble brews in the show's gay universe when high school pals Kate and Steve find they are attracted to each other after sharing a passionate moment in the school musical. With the help of his magic wand, Zanna tends to the hearts and lives of all around him in this story based on a humorous and hopeful message of tolerance. The musical received a 2003 Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation Media Award for its "fair, accurate and inclusive representations" of the gay community and issues that effect their lives.

"Think of the show as a bright hybrid of Bye, Bye Birdie, Grease, with a touch more social satire and heart." Kenneth Jones for PLAYBILL

DIGNITY CHAPTER FORMS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity was founded in the late 1960s in the Los Angeles area by a priest who originally formed Dignity as a support group for gay and lesbian Catholics. Since then, Dignity has become an international movement which seeks to restore and nourish the faith of GLBT Catholics and their friends through worship, advocacy, education and counseling.

DignityUSA summarizes its purpose in its Statement of Vision: "DignityUSA envisions and works for a time when Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Catholics are affirmed and experience dignity through the integration of their spirituality with their sexuality, and as beloved persons of God participate fully in all aspects of life within the Church and society."

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBT Catholics as well as friends and straight allies are welcome. All those who express a desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com or visit the blog at: www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com.

SUE SNEERINGER DIRECTS READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS PLAY INDEPENDENCE

Reading Community Players will stage Lee Blessing's darkly comic tale of a mother and her three daughters, INDEPENDENCE, for a two-weekend run beginning April 25. The production is directed by Susan E. Sneeringer and features Genia Miller, Kathy Newville, Shirley Lang and Rose Azrael. Performance dates are April 25, 26, May 2, 3, all at 8:00 PM, with 3:00 PM matinee shows on April 27 and May 4. Ticket information is available by calling the theatre box office at (610) 375-9106 or online at www.rcptheatre.org, where they can also be purchased.

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, <http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa>, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see FACT

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, civictheater.com

CUUPS - Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uuclv_cuups@yahoo.groups.com.

Enigma Players--qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere- email:equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLEF- Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email.info@berksglef.org.

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.gloria.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV- call: 610 8 6 8 -2 1 5 3 , email: havenuyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo.groups.com www.uuclvp.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvgmc.org, www.lvgmc.org 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@yahoo.com, <http://www.mcclv.org> 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre- 610.432.8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

APRIL 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LV PFLAG LVGMC	2 SPECTRUM TEJASHAVEN Muhlenberg Theatre	3 RAA GLOSS Civic Theatre	4	5GLOSS WDIY BEARS
6 MCC Sisterhood TOUCHSTONE ReadingPrideDance	7 RAA SC	8 LVGMC	9 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS	11GLOSS Bowling Eunuchos	12 WDIY BEN DIG GLOSS Game Night
13 GLOSS HMFF MCC UUCLV WDIY	14 RAA LVGMC Muhlenberg	15 R PFLAG LVGMC	16 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	17GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18 TOUCHSTONE	19 WDIY GLOSS MCC
20 GLOSS HMFF MCC UUCLV Interweave WDIY	21 RAA SC PSU	22 PRIMARY LVGMC	23 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS Muhlenberg PSU	25 MCC Movie Theatre Eunuchos Muhlenberg Theatre	26DIG PSL WDIY GLOSS
27 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS HMFF GLOSS MCC	28 RAA LVGMC		30 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM			

MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 KUTZTOWN	2 KUTZTOWN	3 WDIY BEARS GLOSS
4 GLOSS UUCLV MCC HMFF	5 RAA SC	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	8 RAA GLOSS	9 GLOSS Eunuchos GLOSS Bowling	10DIG GLOSS WDIY GLOSS Game Night HAVEN PROM
11WDIY LOSS MCC HMFF UUCLV	12 RAA LVGMC R PFLAG	13LVGMC R PFLAG	14 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	15GLOSS RAA	16	17 GLOSS WDIY
18 WDIY Interweave GLOSS UUCLV MCC	19 SC RAA	20 LVGMC	21 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	22 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	23Eunuchos MCC Movie	24 WDIY GLOSS
25 GLOSS HMFF LOSS Game Night MCC Muhlenberg Theatre	26 LVGMC RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	29 RAA GLOSS	30 MCC Movie	31 DIG

JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 WDIY LOSS WDIY HMFF MCC	2 RAA SC	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS	5	6	7BEARS GLOSS LES GROSS WDIY
8GLOSS CLV WDIY HMFF MCC	9 RAA LVGMC MCC	10 LVGMC MCC	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS Muhlenberg Theatre	12 GLOSS RAA	13Eunuchos GLOSS Bowling	14 WDIY DIG REN GLOSS
15UUCLV GLOSS HMFF Interweave WDIY MCC	16 RAA SC	17 LVGMC PDN AWARDS	18 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	19 RAA GLOSS	20	21 GLOSS WDIY
2MCGLOSS LANCASTER PRIDE PFLAG PICNIC UUCLV	23 RAA LVGMC	24 LVGMC	25 M PFLAG HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	26 GLOSS RAA PFLAG	27 MCC Movie Eunuchos	28 DIG GLOSS WDIY
29 GLOSS MCQUCLV WDIY	30 RAA					

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pafilag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstu/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org

Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219

Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org

SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com

Safe Space-AtLehigh U. 610.758.5973 Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137

T.O. - Theatre Outlet- Allentown, 610-820-9270. UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652. VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS SANCTUARY COUNSELING- 1ST & 3RD MONDAY GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MON LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST THURS MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRK - WEDS HAVEN WEDS READING SPECTRUM - WEDS MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS JUN MARIJUNA SEPT - DEC ONLY POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI EUNUCHOS - 2ND & 4TH FRI MCCLV MOVIES- LAST FRI MCCLV POTLUCK - LAST SUN MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS- SUNS LV BEARS - 1ST SAT GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY DIGNITY - 2ND & 4TH SUN

APR 2-6 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE APR 6 - SISTERHOOD BENEFIT APR 6, 7, 18 - TOUCHSTONE APR 6 - READING PRIDE DANCE APR 12 - GLOSS GAMENIGHT APR 15 - MUHLENBERG SPEAKER APR 19 - MCC GREEN PRES. APR 22 - PRIMARY APR 21-26 - PSU THEATRE APR 24-27 - MUHLENBERG THEATRE APR 26 - MCC DINING MAY 1-3 - KUTZTOWN THEATER MAY 3 - HAVEN PROM MAY 4 - READING PRIDE AT STIRLING MAY 4 - MS WALK (MCC) JUN 7 - LES GROSS CONCERT JUN 10 - MCC BASEBALL JUN 11-29 MUHLENBERG THEATRE JUN 17 - PDPN AWARDS CELEBRATION JUN 25 - JUL 26 MUHLENBERG THEATRE JUN 22 - LANCASTER PRIDE JUN 22 - PFLAG PICNIC JUL 9 - 27 MUHLENBERG THEATRE JUL 20 - READING PRIDE FESTIVAL AUG 17 - GLY PRIDE FESTIVAL

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PADIIVERSITY.ORG

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE AT CIVIC THEATRE

Civic Theatre Production of TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE: LIMITED SEATS LEFT! Performances are March 14th - April 6th - Call the Civic Box Office at 610-432-8943. For information, or to purchase tickets. Civic Theatre is at 514 N. 19th St. Allentown

MCCLV PARTICIPATES IN "DINING FOR FRIENDS"

MCCLV will participate in the annual "Dining For Friends," for AIDS Services Center. Gather together on Saturday, April 26 at 5 PM at the church for a potluck dinner. For info, contact Barb Baus with MCCLV's Helping Hands ministry: helping.hands@mcclv.org

TOUCHSTONE EVENTS

Tales from the Middle East - March 29 to April 6. Showtimes and ticket information are available through www.touchstone.org or by calling 610-867-1689.

April 7, 6pm-8pm. Open auditions for the 3rd Annual Young Playwrights' Festival. To reserve an audition time please contact Vicki Haller at vicki@touchstone.org or 610-867-1689.

April 18, there will be a HipHop Collective (a Firehouse Friday event). The event begins at 9pm, tickets will be available for \$5 at the door. All events this month take place at Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015. 610-867-1689/www.touchstone.org.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

I have been remiss in not thanking everyone who attended the fundraisers Gaydar Magazine has hosted over the past few months. The end of November was our kick off to the Holiday season of partying at Lee Gribbens in Emmaus. Around \$3000 was raised and split between FACT & Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. Gay owned with scrumptious food and a friendly bar Lee Gribbens is the place to hang out on Thursday nights. We co-hosted a fundraiser to benefit The Gay Men's Chorus with TakeOver Lehigh Valley, the Woods Campground and Diamoniz at American Hairlines. The fresh pasta bar was as visually appealing as it was tasty and the cosmos were out of this world and helped raise \$1500. The gym at gay owned AH is stocked with hi-end equipment and hot trainers. Who said that? Moving on- Our 4th Annual Oscar Bash raised over \$3000 for Pride GLV. This year the site was the always gay friendly and smoke free (for those of you who like that sort of thing) Allentown BrewWorks. Check out the ABW Martini Club which benefits PrideGLV.

Speaking of the Oscars. They sucked! I didn't like many of the nominees to begin with. Yes, I know last month's column was all about I love this...and I love that. I love everything. Blah! Blah! Blah! I'm a gay man. The only specialty group expected to change their minds more than women. I hated the way over-hyped Michael Clayton. It's only saving grace, Tilda Swinton, did NOT deserve the Oscar. It should have gone to Amy Ryan. Yes, I was happy that Marion Cotillard won for Best Actress. Juno was sweet but too self-precious. Enchanted's Amy Adams was unjustly overlooked. Daniel Day Lewis is a great actor but he was in full on Bette Davis as Baby Jane Hudson mode in There Will be Blood. The award is for best acting not the most acting. The best of the year was Gone Baby Gone, Into the Wild, The Bourne Ultimatum, Ratatouille and Knocked Up. I guarantee if you invest the money in a rental you will not be disappointed in any of these. The Oscars should take a page from the Golden Globe handbook and offer prizes for comedy/musical films and performances. And serve drinks to the attendees. Jack Nicholson is so much more Jack Nicholson after tossing back a few. I miss Joan Rivers on the Red Carpet. She knew nothing about anyone's career and was always sporting a new face. In preparation to wear her crown, I demand that if he is going to do every hosting gig in Hollywood, Ryan Seacrest must forget half of what he knows about the celebs he interviews and start using Botox. Seacrest, out. He should be.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LV

Last Sunday of the Month Potluck @ MCCLV follows the 10:30 AM morning worship service, all are welcome! Bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

Les Gross Anniversary Concert MCCLV member Les Gross celebrates his decades with Metropolitan Community Churches in a special Anniversary Concert on Saturday, June 7 at 7 PM at the church. Proceeds to go towards MCCLV's Building Fund. Information: info@mcclv.org

MCCLV Weight Loss Support Group-meets on Sundays following the 10:30 AM morning worship. Information: Stephanie Heller: wishiwasatadeashow@yahoo.com

MCCLV member Kellie Rahl is forming a team for the MS Walk on Sunday, May 4 at the Rose Garden Pavilions in Allentown. Contact klrpsu@rcn.com

MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC - joint event bringing together MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC (Lancaster, PA) meet on June 10 in Reading for a Reading Phillies baseball game. Tickets under \$10 info@mcclv.org

MCCLV Sunday Morning Bible Study - Adult Christian Education Ministry Leader Robby Schotter is leading an "Inductive Bible Study" at MCCLV every Sunday at 8:30 AM. Information, christian.education@mcclv.org.



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

THEY SAY HAVING KIDS KEEPS YOU YOUNG

In our pre-parenting days, one would think we probably had a pretty active social life; hitting the clubs, making appearances at all the gala events, and partying hard with the gay boys and drag queens. One would think that maybe we even had a social life. But just prior to adopting Lucas, it seemed like we were settling uncomfortably into middle age. More like we were spiraling uncontrollably there. Lounging around and putting on weight. It was a gay man's nightmare. Then came the child. That turned our life around, and around, and around. Our world flew right off its late thirties orbit and landed us right back into our early twenties again. Woo hoo!

During our Son's infant stage, we once again were awake until all hours of the night. Not out partying but changing diapers. But still we were up way past 2 am, and then getting up for work the next day. Kinda felt like twenty-one again. During our son's toddler stage, we had so many of our family and friends offer to watch Lucas so that we could have some free time, we felt guilty not going out and taking full advantage of what their generosity made possible. We actually found ourselves able to go to some parties, do a little clubbing, and attend some gala events. The irony of it is, whenever we did go anywhere without Lucas, everyone would ask about him or wonder where he was.

"Would you like a splash of guilt with that drink?"

"No, but make it a double."

As Lucas moved past his toddler years he became very mobile. In fact he was very fast, and quite naughty. Naughty and fast is a formidable combination. We had to become quick on our feet again. There wasn't much lounging around anymore. The side benefit was that it wasn't as easy to put on the extra pounds. Fortunately by this time, we weren't having frequent late nights up with baby anymore. Also Lucas was at the age where we could take him out with us and experience so much again through his eyes. Going to a movie took on a whole new meaning...it meant that we would be watching a two-hour cartoon about a bee whose mission would be to save the world. Going to a carnival became a whole new experience. When was the last time we got to eat cotton candy, candy apples, and caramel corn without guilt? We bought the stuff for the kid, and will be darned if it's going to waste.

Surely this will all catch up with us. We cannot remain young forever. By the time Lucas is a teenager, we will already be in our fifties. The gray hair will be there and the arthritis may be setting in a bit. Guess that's why they make hair dye and hip replacements.

MCCLV MOVIE SERIES

Meet the last Friday of the month at MCCLV at 7 PM for a Movie Series. The "vision" for this GLBT film series is for fellowship, culture, education and discussion. All are welcome - bring a friend! For info: Robby Schotterchristian.education@mcclv.org

**DONNIE AND EARL SNYDER LEAD
PDN'S RAINBOW FAMILIES GROUP.**


RAINBOW FAMILIES
READ MORE IN THE
RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
WEB SITE AT www.padiversity.org.

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Ask a "Family" Lawyer By Attorney Kate Lynn

Dear Kate, My girlfriend and I conceived our baby using a known sperm donor. We initially agreed that he would not be responsible for any child support, but only if he did not request any visitation with our daughter. He has not been involved in our daughter's life (she is now three years old), but I have lost my job, was the sole breadwinner, and child support would help us financially. Is he responsible to pay? Feeling Very Unsuppored

Dear FVU, In Pennsylvania, this known sperm donor, would not be responsible for paying child support under these facts. The laws concerning sperm, egg and embryo donations are ever evolving in Pennsylvania and across our nation. The case involving Iovonne V. Ferguson vs. Joel L. McKiernan wended its way through our court system for several years.

It began in Dauphin County, and the Court of Common Pleas held in 2003 that Mr. McKiernan as the known sperm donor was the legal father for twin boys. The Court found that the oral agreement between him and Ms. Ferguson was not enforceable as it bargained away a right to child support that neither adult held. Another factual twist in this case came as Ms. Ferguson was married at the time of conception, and as a general rule a husband is a presumptive father. However, the actions taken by her husband in leaving the home two years earlier, filing for divorce on the day of the in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedure was performed, and obtaining a divorce decree mitigated against such presumption. Relying on child support guidelines, the known sperm donor was ordered to pay monthly child support and a corresponding arrearage of over sixty thousand dollars was ordered and due immediately. In 2004, the Superior Court of Pennsylvania agreed with the trial court.

However, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania disagreed by their split decision entered December 27, 2007. The Court held that the agreement between mother and known sperm donor was, in fact, enforceable. In most traditional cases involving sexual reproduction, the parties cannot deny a child his or her requisite child support. The argument of the known sperm donor was that upholding the lower court's ruling "would call into question the legal status of all sperm donors, including those who donate anonymously through sperm banks."

Several states have adopted the Uniform Parentage Act which states that anonymous donors using a clinic for donation have no legal rights nor any obligations to any resulting children.

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. She can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

EUNUCHOS

Eunucos gathers at MCCLV on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Their foundational mission is to praise God – and they also gather for fellowship and music. For more info, contact Maricel Concepcion at msds2107@verizon.net or call Maricel at 610-798-4730 (after 6 p.m.) This is a GLBTA group, hablamos espanol.

MCCLV TRICKY TRAY PLANNING

The "Tricky Tray" is MCCLV's big fundraiser planned for October and all are welcome to help plan another great event! The Planning Team meets the 4th Monday of every month at MCCLV at 7 PM. For more information, contact Maureen Gillmeyer at maureen.gillmeyer@mcclv.org

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO

This film got so many positive responses, I was very excited to finally get my hands on a copy of the recently released DVD to "For The Bible Tells Me So." Framed as an exposé of religious discrimination against gays and lesbians, the powerful film resonates with many viewers, undoubtedly changing some people's viewpoints. The film makers interview religious people of stature like Desmond Tutu, Bishop Gene Robinson, Chrissy Gephhardt, Dick Gephhardt, and many others. And while some serious theological questions are considered, and the film won many awards, I couldn't help but feel that it lacked substance.

As I was watching the film, it seemed more and more like it was produced by the Human Rights Campaign. As such, it reeked of a "normalizing" effect - gays and lesbians are just like everyone. Andrew Sullivan may like the film - but to most of us in the queer community, it falls short of accepting us as who we are - and instead embraces a gay and lesbian community that is no different from its straight counterpart.

The film does not delve into queer or feminist spirituality and interpretation of text, nor does it include talk of queer faith organizations like the Metropolitan Community Church, The Radical Faeries, Interweave, or the World Congress of GLBTQ Jews (or any others.)

For the Bible Tells Me So is an important film for a person who has had little to no contact with an openly LGBT person, or someone who is a religious conservative, but for most of us - the film only reinforces the gender binary and represses sexuality to make us all "normal." Whatever that means...

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL STIRLING EVENT

Sunday, May 4, Reading Pride Celebration produces its 2nd Annual educational event, "A Day at the Stirling Mansion," at 1120 Centre Avenue in Reading, featuring a presentation by the Eastern PA Chapter of PFLAG, entertainment by vocalist and Reading native, Brian Gibson, a cocktail reception and a silent auction. Tickets to this extraordinary networking event are \$30.00 per person, For tickets call (610) 375-8209, or purchase them at The Red Star Saloon. All proceeds will benefit Reading Pride Celebration. Purchase tickets early, tickets will be limited to the first 150 people.

PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

- April 6 -- Sisterhood at Diamonz will benefit PA Diversity Network, Pride GLV and FACT. Don't miss this fabulous event!!!!
- June 17 -- PA Diversity Network Community Awards Celebration
- June 22 -- PDN will participate in the PFLAG Picnic.
- July 20 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Reading Pride Celebration 2008.
- August 17 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival in Cedar Beach Park on Hamilton Street in Allentown.
- October 16 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury will do a presentation on Gay History at the Pottsville PFLAG meeting.
- October, 2008 -- 5K Breast Cancer Classic, PDN will have a team in this event with a great breakfast at the PDN headquarters.
- November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo
- November 15, 16, 17 -- 4th Annual PDN Holiday Art Show
- December, 2008 -- Rainbow Families Third Annual Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is cosponsored by MCCLV.

**SEE PHOTOS & INFO ON RECENT
BERKS & GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY
GLBT EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**

VALLEY GAY PRESS⁹

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Kate Lynn, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender

Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
10 Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),
Reading Community Theatre -
11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading

Allen HS GSA, Reading HS GSA, Gov Mifflin HS GSA
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network

Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA
48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Diamonz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

The Woods Campground

Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St., Reading
Sanctuary Counseling -- 515 Old Swede Road,
Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January.

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To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

MEMBERSHIP FORM



Name/s _____
 Address _____
 City _____ zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Make checks payable to PDN.

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$15 for an individual membership and \$20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**PAY YOUR PDN
 DUES ON LINE!
 JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT
 WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG
 IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.**

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search at no cost to you. Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is \$730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!



LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury

A COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FOR MAJOR CHANGE

Not long ago, I got a call from an agency at a major Lehigh Valley hospital, asking if PA Diversity Network would like to apply for a very small grant to provide GLBT community members with smoking cessation information. This agency was working specifically to give this kind of support to three Lehigh Valley "disparate" populations. Their literature identified the groups as: The Latino Community, the African American Community and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community. (By the way, disparate means specifically "Containing elements very different from others." -- Which is true about each of these communities, certainly when it comes to access to health care.)

I and PDN are strongly committed to the health and well being of the local GLBT population, so I asked if I could write proposals for two plans. One plan was aimed at creating a pamphlet that referenced same-sex families, with GLBT specific information. That was the plan I wanted to do. And the other plan aimed at creating and advertising a venue to present reasons to GLBT people, why smoking is unhealthy. This was the one they wanted to do, so I wrote it too, even though it's a little patronizing to presume there are actually any LV GLBT people who don't already know smoking is bad for you.

I filled out all the forms and turned the grant proposals in at the deadline and still haven't heard back about them.

Frankly, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that neither of these plans provide any new incentives for people to quit smoking. Upon reflection, I came up with a much better plan.

If the hospitals are honestly committed to improving the health of disparate populations, then here's my much more exciting proposal:

PA Diversity Network will pledge to get 50 Lehigh Valley GLBT people to fully commit to major health-based life changes. Possible changes could include: Stopping or cutting down on smoking, losing weight for health, maintaining a program of regular exercise, eating more healthy foods, etc. These 50 participants would set goals and commit to reaching them.

In exchange, the hospitals would provide a significant incentive; they would have to grant same-sex domestic partner benefits for the partners of hospital employees.

Simple, huh? And what an incentive! Personally, I would commit to losing 10% to 15% body weight in exchange for the hospitals doing this important, yet low cost (actually no cost to them) thing. I've mentioned this to GLBT hospital employees and others community members, and everyone I've spoken to has been willing to take on this project. What a positive thing for our community. After all, just granting the benefits will improve the health of people who don't have them, but need them. Furthermore, if these major employers do begin to grant benefits, it will influence other area employers to follow suit. It's totally win-win.

This will be a very public challenge, not just for the people adopting more healthy habits, but a challenge to the hospitals to demonstrate whether or not they are really committed to the health of disparate populations, including the GLBT community. Are they willing to promote a program that is likely to succeed? Or are they only interested in pushing programs that will certainly fail?

If you are interested in being one of the 50 (or more) GLBT people in this challenge, please contact me - 610-432-5449, info@padiversity.org. We'll be covering this in the VGP, so stay tuned.

LANCASTER PRIDE - JUNE 21

The first ever Lancaster Pride Festival is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, to be held at Buchanan Park, Near Franklin and Marshall College. For updates, or to participate, please see the web site www.lancasterpride2008.org.

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

TWO GOOD CANDIDATES LEAVE ME NO CLEAR CHOICE IN THE PRIMARY



I don't know if I am ambivalent or if I am just beginning not to care about the primary because I don't really believe the outcome will make a difference on the issues that really matter to me. Don't mistake my position, I know how I will vote in the general election. I will choose to vote for someone other than a man of white privilege. Not that I don't have good friends who are white men of privilege - sounds like the old 'but I have gay friends' doesn't it? I just don't understand most white men of privilege. I don't believe they really understand minority issues, primarily because they often try to insist to minorities that they do. In this primary election though, I have the unique option of choosing between two eminently qualified candidates representing distinct minority classes. And I can't choose. Why?

For one thing, the differences between Clinton and Obama on the economy, health care, war and education aren't so incredibly different to me, but more importantly, neither Clinton or Obama have, to my satisfaction, sufficiently proclaimed their support for equal civil rights for our community. As I see it, if they can't speak out about the 'hard issues' to a general audience in the way they do in their speeches in GLBT forums, how will they address the issues once elected? My skepticism about the candidate's positions stems from their reported responses to voters from different constituencies. For example, Clinton tells conservatives that she is personally opposed to gay marriage and touts her support of DOMA, then speaks to GLBT audiences about support for civil unions and her vote against the Federal Marriage Amendment. Obama has said that he doesn't think marriage is a civil right, but that not being discriminated against is a civil right. While both candidates have at some point in their campaigns voiced support of civil unions with "marriage like" legal rights, I am cautiously alert for their equivocation when they speak to mainstream audiences.

Both Clinton and Obama have challenged us to pick the candidate that can best handle the 'hard issues.' Yet, neither will simply and unequivocally state their support for equal civil rights for GLBT Americans. To me, this is a precursor to how they will handle the hard issues. For the Primary, how can I give my support to a candidate who, when they are faced with a simple issue of equal civil rights, spins in the direction of the prevailing audience?

MUHLENBERG SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE

www.summerbroadway.org

The 2008 Season of Broadway at Home in the Lehigh Valley Cole Porter's *Kiss Me, Kate* - June 11 to 29. Inspired by Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. Tuesday through Sunday. TICKETS: \$34 Adult, \$30 Senior, \$21 Youth. Groups of 15 or more: tickets \$25.

The Who's TOMMY - July 9 to 27. An exhilarating rock musical about family, celebrity and redemption. Tuesday through Sunday. TICKETS: \$34 Adult, \$30 Senior, \$21 Youth. Groups of 15 or more: tickets \$25.

A Year with Frog and Toad (for Young Audiences) - June 25 to July 26. A stage musical true to Arnold Lobel's original stories of the cheerful Frog and the grumpy Toad. Wed, Thurs & Fri at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Tickets \$10. Discounts for non-profit groups & group sales boxoffice@muhsbroadway.org. ALL SHOWS: Tickets online at www.summerbroadway.org, by phone: 484.664.3333 beginning April 27.

POP QUIZ

12

1. What Harrisburg native played "Miss Jane" on TV's The Beverly Hillbillies? A. Nancy Reagan B. Nancy Kulp C. Nancy Davis D. Nancy Drew

2. Gay Hollywood director of The Philadelphia Story, A Star is Born, The Women, and My Fair Lady _____ discovered Nancy Kulp in a studio publicity department and encouraged her to act.
A. Victor Fleming B. King Vidor
C. John Houston D. George Cukor

3. True or False - Nancy Kulp served in the Navy during WW2.

4. True or False - Nancy Kulp had a Ph.D. in Biology from Smith College.

5. True or False - Nancy Kulp ran for Congress as a Democrat from Pennsylvania.

6. True or False - Actor and Republican Buddy Ebsen did TV commercials for Nancy Kulp's conservative opponent during the race.

7. True or False - Nancy Kulp won her Congressional race and served in Washington for 4 years.

8. True or False - In 1988 Nancy Kulp came out publicly as a lesbian by responding, "I find that birds of a feather flock together," to a personal question that included - "Do opposites attract?"

9. True or False - Kulp worked for Juniata College in Pennsylvania as an Artist in Residence in the 1980s.

10. What openly lesbian star played "Miss Jane" in the 1993 movie version of the Beverly Hillbillies?

THE FAMILY: From left, Cristine Gaiennie holds Addison and Landan while Patsy Lovell holds Avery and Braydan. Cristine Gaiennie gave birth to quadruplets, two boys and two girls, last week. She and her partner, Patsy Lovell, work for the Irvine Police Department. The babies were photographed at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CHOC. -- From an article by STEVE ZYLIUS, in THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

QUOTE #5

QUOTE
"Dear Senator Browne, As a minister (priest) in the Episcopal Church... (and one of your constituents) I urge you to oppose SB 1250, the so-called "Marriage Protection Amendment," or any other Constitutional Amendment that would deny legal recognition of unmarried families..." -- Rev. T. Scott Allen, from an email to State Senator Pat Browne about the Constitutional Amendment vote.

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

The Guessing Game by Ted Randler, 2002, Palari Publishing, \$16.95

A vicious murder in a gay bar, no witnesses and hate graffiti in the victims blood on the wall gets the mystery started. An intriguing game of chat room seduction plays into the hands of a cyber serial killer. An opportunistic reporter interferes with the police and clashes with the gay community. Ex-cop Tommy Stone, who never seems to finish anything, is struggling to deal with a southern mother, an ex-wife and his gay lover and gets entangled in solving the crime. The game ends with a surprising twist. Lots of bar scenes and cyber chatter. Good reading for the guys in the crowd. - **Review by Patricia Sullivan**

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater
19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Agudath Raskalah
The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
GLEF (Gay and Lesbian Episcopalianans and Friends)

QUOTE #1

"I would never even consider working in an environment where I couldn't be open about who I am," Alba Martinez, openly lesbian chief executive officer of the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, and former commissioner of Philadelphia's Department of Human Services, the city's largest operating department, and a former columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. -- From an article in the *PhillyInquirer* about 5 out Phillyarea CEOs.

QUOTE #2

"These shocking figures prove that the Bush administration's rejection of science-based sex education in public schools and its obsessive support of homophobic abstinence-only programs — now totaling \$1.5 billion — has not only been a complete waste of money, it has clearly endangered the health of teenage girls." -- Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on a federal study that showed one in four (26 percent) teenage girls aged 14 to 19 has a sexually transmitted disease (STD).

QUOTE #3

"As we couples here tonight and the 214 couples in the Photo Project all make our way through life with the partners we love, we do it with strength and bravery and without regrets.

I'm proud to be a lesbian, I'm proud and joyful to have been with my beloved partner Patricia Sullivan for 20 years but Trish and I, just like all the other couples here... stay together...in love... but...waiting.

We are all waiting for the 1100 federal and 700 state rights this country so freely gives to legally married couples to help strengthen their families. Not that we aren't strong... but we are waiting ...for equality... and it does matter to our families." -- Vice Chair of the Allentown Human Relations Commission Liz Bradbury, quoted at the dedication ceremony of MCCLV's new space.

QUOTE #4

“Be careful whom you hate; it may be someone you love.”
-- From the Eastern PA PFLAG Newsletter

Distelfink ©4/08 by Ruby Zebu 'Apples to Oranges'

Time Magazine says: "Writer John Cloud looks at how the differences between straight and gay relationships factored into his own breakup and that of same-sex couples in general. Although studies point to better communications and other dynamics between gay partners, vs. straight couples, researchers also have found a higher breakup rate; in one report, 21% of same-sex couples ended their relationship, vs. 14% of married straight couples."

What's wrong with this picture? Answer: They are comparing straight **legally married** couples who get divorced, to same-sex couples in any **kind of a relationship** who break up. Of course the stat for all relationships is higher for break-ups than the stat for legally married relationships. Duh! If you compare every kind of relationship, even one-night stands - I'd guess lesbians would top the other pairings for length...

